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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 11 December 2013

[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/68/421)]

68/72. Assistance in mine action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 66/69 of 9 December 2011 and all its previous resolutions on assistance in mine clearance and on assistance in mine action, all adopted without a vote,

Recalling also all relevant treaties and conventions [1] and their review processes,

Noting with appreciation the extent to which the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action has been commemorated worldwide,

Reaffirming its deep concern at the tremendous humanitarian and development problems caused by the presence of mines and explosive remnants of war,[2] which have serious and lasting social and economic consequences for the populations of countries affected by them,

Bearing in mind the serious threat that mines and explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions, pose to the safety, health and lives of local civilian populations, as well as of personnel participating in humanitarian, peacekeeping, rehabilitation and mine clearance programmes and operations,

Deeply alarmed by the number of mines that continue to be laid each year as well as the presence of a decreasing but still very large number of, and area of square kilometres contaminated by, mines and explosive remnants of war as a result

[1] These include the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, 1997; the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, as amended in 1996 (Protocol II to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects); the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War, 2003 (Protocol V to the 1980 Convention); the Convention on Cluster Munitions, 2008; the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts, 1977 (Protocol I); and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006.

[2] As defined by Protocol V to the 1980 Convention.

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of armed conflicts, and therefore remaining convinced of the necessity and urgency of strengthening mine-action efforts by the international community with a view to eliminating the threat and the humanitarian impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war to civilians as soon as possible,

Recognizing that, in addition to the primary role of States, the United Nations has a significant role to play in the field of assistance in mine action through the members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action,[3] including the United Nations Mine Action Service, considering mine action to be an important and integrated component of United Nations humanitarian assistance and development activities, and noting the integration of mine action in numerous United Nations peacekeeping operations,

Noting with appreciation the enhanced cooperation and coordination of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action with non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders through meetings of the Committee on Mine Action,[4] and its active involvement in the humanitarian coordination mechanism,

Recognizing the importance of the full and effective participation of both women and men in mine action programmes,

Recognizing also the valuable mine-action efforts of national, regional and international mine-action practitioners, including United Nations personnel and peacekeepers, enabling local communities and mine survivors to resume normal lives and reclaim their livelihoods by regaining access to previously contaminated lands,

Stressing the pressing need to urge non-State actors to halt immediately and unconditionally new deployments of mines, improvised explosive devices and other associated explosive devices,

Taking note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the evaluation of the scope, organization, effectiveness and approach of the work of the United Nations in mine action[5] and the related note by the Secretary-General,[6]

Taking note also of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit, in particular with regard to the elaboration of the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013–2018, and encouraging the members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action to continue their work and further improve the efforts of the United Nations in the field of mine action,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[7]

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[3] Consisting of the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the World Bank.

[4] The Committee on Mine Action is an informal information-sharing forum. The members are the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, non-governmental organizations involved in mine action, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and academic institutions.

[5] A/68/63.

[6] A/68/63/Add.1.

[7] A/68/305.

2. *Calls*, in particular, for the continuation of the efforts of States, with the assistance of the United Nations and relevant organizations involved in mine action, as appropriate, to foster the establishment and development of national mine-action capacities in countries in which mines and explosive remnants of war constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of the local civilian population or an impediment to social and economic development efforts at the national and local levels;

3. *Urges* all States, in particular those that have the capacity to do so, as well as the United Nations system and other relevant organizations and institutions involved in mine action, to support mine-affected States, as appropriate, by providing:

(*a*) Assistance to countries affected by mines and explosive remnants of war for the establishment and development of national mine-action capacities, including, where appropriate, in the fulfilment of the relevant international obligations of those countries;

(*b*) Support for national programmes, where appropriate, in cooperation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system and relevant regional, governmental and non-governmental organizations, to reduce the risks posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war, taking into consideration the different needs of women, girls, boys and men;

(*c*) Reliable, predictable, timely and, where possible, multi-annual contributions for mine-action activities, including through national mine-action efforts and mine-action programmes of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, including those relating to rapid response, victim assistance and mine risk education, especially at the local level, as well as through relevant national, regional and global trust funds, including the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action;

(*d*) Necessary information and technical, financial and material assistance to locate, remove, destroy and otherwise render ineffective minefields, mines, booby traps, other devices and explosive remnants of war, in accordance with international law, as soon as possible;

(*e*) Technological assistance (i) to countries affected by mines and explosive remnants of war; and (ii) to promote user-oriented scientific research on and development of mine-action techniques and technology that are effective, sustainable, appropriate and environmentally sound;

4. *Encourages* efforts to conduct all mine-action activities in accordance with the International Mine Action Standards or national standards compliant with those Standards, and emphasizes the importance of ensuring the accuracy and objectivity of reporting information as well as of using state-of-the-art technologies and an information management system, such as the Information Management System for Mine Action, to help facilitate mine-action activities;

5. *Urges* all mine-affected States, pursuant to applicable international law, to identify all areas, as appropriate, under their jurisdiction or control containing mines and other explosive remnants of war in the most efficient manner possible and to employ land release techniques, including non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance when appropriate;

6. *Encourages* mine-affected States, with support from relevant development partners as appropriate, to proactively mainstream mine action and victim assistance requirements and their linkage with health care and disabilities

agendas into development plans and processes to ensure that development priorities include mine action and that mine action and victim assistance requirements are predictably funded;

7. *Encourages* all relevant multilateral, regional and national programmes and bodies to include activities related to mine action, including clearance, in their peacebuilding, humanitarian, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development assistance activities, where appropriate, bearing in mind the need to ensure national and local ownership, sustainability and capacity-building, as well as to include a gender and age-appropriate perspective in all aspects of such activities;

8. *Encourages* Member States, as appropriate, and relevant organizations involved in mine action to continue efforts to ensure that mine-action programmes take into account the needs of persons with disabilities and are gender- and age-sensitive, so that women, girls, boys and men can benefit equally from them, and encourages the participation of all stakeholders, as well as the further participation of women, in the programming of mine action;

9. *Encourages* Member States to support victims' access to appropriate medical care, physical and sensory rehabilitation, psychosocial support, education and skills training and income-earning opportunities and to provide those services to all, regardless of gender, age or socioeconomic status;

10. *Encourages* the provision of capacity-building assistance to affected countries in order to integrate assistance for victims into their national policy frameworks on health care, social services and disability-inclusive development by relevant civil society organizations and other relevant entities with expertise in those matters, including the United Nations;

11. *Stresses* the importance of cooperation and coordination in mine action, emphasizes the primary responsibility of national authorities in that regard, and also stresses the supporting role of the United Nations and other relevant organizations in that regard;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of explicitly incorporating references to mine action, when appropriate, in ceasefire and peace agreements in the light of the potential that mine action can have as a peace and confidence-building measure in post-conflict situations among the parties concerned;

13. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to take measures to improve coordination, efficiency, transparency and accountability, in particular by implementing the Strategy of the United Nations on Mine Action 2013–2018;

14. *Encourages* those States and organizations in a position to do so to support measures by all relevant actors aimed at improving rapid response capacity as well as transparency and accountability;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on follow-up to previous resolutions on assistance in mine clearance and on assistance in mine action;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Assistance in mine action".

65th plenary meeting
11 December 2013